

We had some great weather earlier this week that led to large number of anglers scouring the Delta in search of coho. While the majority of anglers continue to fish the Eyak and Ibeck systems, anglers were found all along the Copper River Highway as far out as 34 Mile. We've had a couple of days of rain now and are expecting more, so we can expect river levels to rise and fish continue to move further up the streams. Below are some insights on specific streams.

Ibeck: I was just talking to anglers at the bridge on Ibeck, during the 20 minutes I was there I saw half a dozen fish pulled in. Anglers reported the most success using roe, but pink Pixees and bright spinners were also effective.

While fishing around the bridge can prove quite effective, if you want to get away from the crowds good fishing can be found both upstream and down. If the water is high you can often find hoco in coves or quiet spots out of the main current.

With the increasing rain the visibility in the water will decrease. You can increase your odds of catching a fish by using a lure that rattles. A dark purple or black lure can work well to create contrast with the silty water as well.

Eyak: I had reports of some monster fish coming out of Eyak earlier this week. Just a reminder for all of you that the state record for coho salmon is 26 lbs, but the reports of 19 and 21 lb. fish I had are pretty impressive too.

Most days will find anglers lining the shores of the river in pursuit of some of those monster fish. If you are wading in the river be aware that boats traveling up and down the river may not be able to slow down depending on the water level. Make sure to stay clear of the deepest part of the channel to allow the boats to pass.

Talking to anglers the past couple of days told me that perhaps the fishing is slowing down a little on Eyak. There are still fish in the river, but they were not biting much. Most anglers I talked to were using any combination of both spinning lures and flies but it took time to reach their limit.

Alaganik: Fishing was pretty slow along Alaganik this week. While some fish were found at the mouths of tributaries to Alaganik there were limited fish in the slough itself. But that just means that this week could be all the better. If you're tired of the crowds at Ibeck and don't



Figure 1: Two successful anglers showing off their catch from the bridge pool on Ibeck

have waders, try around the boat ramp at the end of the Alaganik road. Fish will be moving up with the high tides, but they are easier to see during lower levels. Look for “V”s moving upstream and cast a good distance ahead of them. Low tides also expose some of the sandbars around the boat ramp, allowing more exploration of the area.



Figure 2: The lagoon at Fleming Spit

I had some luck fishing the ocean side of Fleming Spit this week. Today showed no fish in the on the ocean side, but a good number in the lagoon. You may have the right lure or fly to distract them from their run.

Just a reminder to be bear aware out there. The best way to avoid a run in with a bear is to alert it to your presence. Talk loud or yell as you walk through the brush. Help keep these encounters to a minimum for everyone's safety. Don't leave guts and carcasses on the bank. Be aware that bear, moose, and waterfowl season are all open now.

Would you like to receive the Cordova Weekly Fishing News via e-mail? Please let me know and I will put you on the distribution list. Also, if you have a good photo from a recent Cordova fishing trip, e-mail me a copy and I will try to get it printed in the next edition of the Weekly Fishing News. My e-mail address is:

amorin@fs.fed.us. Thank you! - Andrew



USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Reference herein to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government, and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.